

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JO KRAFT OP-ED COLUMN, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, WASHPOST, HEADLINED "KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY: OVER A BARREL".

2. HENRY KISSINGER'S LATEST TRIP ABROAD HAS TURNED DISTINCTLY SOUR. AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY HE HAS BEEN DRAWN INTO DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS POTENTIALLY COSTLY TO THIS COUNTRY AND ITS ALLIES.

3. IN THE MIDEAST, DR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN JOLLIED INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES WHICH HAVE AS THE PRICE OF SUCCESS THE LEGITIMIZATION OF ISRAEL'S MORTAL ENEMY, THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. SINCE THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT, THE CLEAR OUTLOOK IS FOR A NEW ROUND OF FIGHTING IN THE AREA.

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4. IN RUSSIA, DR. KISSINGER AGREED TO A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PARTY SECRETARY LEONID BREZHNEV TO BE HELD AT THE END OF THIS MONTH IN VLADIVOSTOK. THE MEETING IN THAT CITY, WHICH IS SITUATED ON LAND CLAIMED BY CHINA AND WHICH SYMBOLIZES RUSSIA'S IMPERIAL DRIVE IN THE PACIFIC, IS BOUND TO STRAIN RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY'S

TWOMOST IMPORTANT FRIENDS IN THE AREA -- CHINA AND JAPAN.

5. IN THE PERSIAN GULF, DR. KISSINGER HAS VIRTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE OIL PRICE DICTATED BY SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRODUCERS' CARTEL. AND IN INDIA, DR. KISSINGER ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE THAT THAT STATE CAN GO NUCLEAR WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS RESISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON.

6. TWO REASONS APPEAR TO UNDERLIE THIS SUDDEN COMING APART OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. SECRETARY KISSINGER, FOR ONE THING, IS NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME NEGOTIATING FROM A POSITION OF WEAKNESS.

7. THE OIL PRICE INCREASE HAS BECOME A SALIENT FEATURE OF INTERNATIONAL POWER POLITICS. IT THREATENS STARVATION IN SOME COUNTRIES AND BANKRUPTCY IN OTHERS. IT CONFRONTS THE UNITED STATES, AS THE STRONGEST POWER IN THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD, WITH THE SPECTER OF AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COLLAPSE.

8. BUT WASHINGTON HAS NOT SO FAR TAKEN THE STEPS NECESSARY TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON EXPORTED OIL. THERE IS NO SERIOUS PROGRAM FOR CUTTING DEMAND IN THIS COUNTRY, NOR FOR JOINT POLICIES WITH OTHER OIL-CONSUMING COUNTRIES. THE WHOLE WORLD SEES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS, LITERALLY, OVER THE BARREL.

9. DR. KISSINGER HAD NO LEVERAGE TO EXERT AGAINST THE OIL PRODUCERS FOR A SERIOUS CUT IN PRICE. NEITHER WAS HE IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE INDIANS THE KIND OF HELP THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD JUSTIFY PUTTING A HOLD ON THEIR NUCLEAR EFFORT. ABOVE ALL HE HAD NO WAY OF CONSTRAINING THE ARAB LEADERS TO ADOPT A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PLO AND ITS DEMAND FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE.

10. THE ARABS PERCEIVED THAT THE OIL SITUATION PUT THEM IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT. THUS AN ARTICLE IN EGYPT'S SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AL AHARAM SAID: "ANY ATTEMPT TO ABORT

THE PALESTINIAN ENTITY WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES IN OIL-RICH ARAB COUNTRIES. AMERICA KNOWS THAT ITS PRESTIGE AS A BIG POWER IS LINKED TO ITS ABILITY TO GUARANTEE THE FLOW OF ARAB OIL TO THE WESTERN WORLD."

11. A SECOND CONSIDERATION IS DR. KISSINGER'S APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. FOR ALL HIS TALK ABOUT

"STRATEGIC CONCEPTS," DR. KISSINGER IS ESSENTIALLY A TACTICIAN. HIS FORTE -- AND IN THIS HE HAS NO PEER -- IS PULLING TOGETHER AND THEN ADJUSTING NEGOTIATING POSITIONS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A PRE-ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC GOAL AT MINIMUM COST. HIS TRIUMPHS -- THE OPENING TOWARD CHINA, THE SETTLEMENT IN VIETNAM, THE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA, AND THE CEASE-FIRE IN THE OCTOBER WAR -- ALL FIT THAT PRESCRIPTION.

12. WHETHER DR. KISSINGER HAS A STRONG STRATEGIC SENSE IS NOT CLEAR. BUT IN THE PAST HE DIDN'T NEED ONE. PRESIDENT NIXON THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY, AND WORRIED -- PERHAPS TOO MUCH -- ABOUT BASIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES. HE REPEATEDLY SAVED DR. KISSINGER FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE OF THE NEGOTIATOR -- THE DESIRE FOR A DEAL AT ANY PRICE.

13. WITH PRESIDENT NIXON GONE, THERE IS NO HIGHER-UP POINT OF STRATEGIC REFERENCES FOR CHECKING DR. KISSINGER'S MOVES. SO FOR THE SAKE OF A SUMMIT MEETING WHICH PRESIDENT FORD DOESN'T REALLY NEED, DR. KISSINGER BLITHELY ACCEPTED THE VLADIVOSTOK SITE WITHOUT DULY ASSESSING THE DAMAGE DONE TO THIS COUNTRY'S TRULY IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS WITH CHINA AND JAPAN.

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14. GETTING OUT OF THESE DIFFICULTIES IS NOT NOW GOING TO BE EASY. BUT THE GENERAL LINE FOR AVOIDING TROUBLE IS NOT IN DOUBT. PRESIDENT FORD'S INTEREST IS TO SLOW DOWN THE PACE OF KISSINGERIAN DIPLOMACY -- PERHAPS EVEN TO THE POINT OF CANCELING HIS TRIP TO THE MIDEAST. FOR BEFORE PLUNGING INTO THE DELICATE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS NOW CONFRONTING THE UNITED STATES, HE NEEDS TO DEVELOP A FULLY COORDINATED POSITION ON STRATEGIC MATTERS IN GENERAL, AND OIL POLICY IN PARTICULAR. (END TEXT). INGERSOLL

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